FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 DECEMBER 1980

American Hostages

"Final Reply"--Tehran radio broadcast the text of Iran's "final reply" on the hostage issue, calling for certain necessary "amendments" and "changes in procedural methods" to the earlier proposals outlined by the United States. The reply first said that the United States must pledge not to interfere in Iran's internal affairs "directly, indirectly, militarily or politically" but is not required officially to recognize Iran's government and revolution.

After listing frozen assets Iran wants to recover, the reply called on the United States to transfer $9 billion plus the Iranian gold it is currently holding to the Algerian Central Bank "prior to the release" of the hostages. As soon as the hostages are released, the reply went on, these assets will be handed over to Iran minus sums needed to pay Iranian debts and legal claims for which Iran will provide an initial cash guarantee of $1 billion.

In addition, the reply continued, the United States must also make a further guarantee equivalent of $4 billion for other unspecified Iranian assets and property in U.S. hands, give "necessary undertakings" to distinguish between claims against the Iranian "revolutionary movement" and against Iran's "Islamic Republic" and quickly make available to Iran a detailed list of Iranian assets within U.S. jurisdiction as well as a list of assets and property of the late shah and his relatives. The key point concerning the shah's assets, the reply said, is that the United States provide a "cash guarantee equivalent of $10 billion," or any other guarantee acceptable to Algeria, as a "percentage" of the shah's wealth that will be deposited in the Algerian Central Bank while the assets are being identified and transferred to Iran.

Nabavi Press Conference--Minister of State Behzad Nabavi told a press conference, reported by Tehran radio, that if the U.S. Government implements only part of Iran's conditions for the release of the hostages, "we will be forced to ask the Majlis for its views on the matters that have not been implemented." Nabavi said Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i's description of the hostage question as a "dead issue" has been "distorted" and that the meaning of Raja'i's statement is that "there is no point in our wasting time over it, so from our point of view it is over." Regarding the future of U.S.-Iranian relations, the minister of state said "our war with the United States will not be over following the return of the hostages."

According to an AFP report on the press conference, Nabavi said Iran will free the hostages 24 hours after the United States accepts the Iranian conditions but if the American replies are unsatisfactory, Iran can keep the hostages for 10 years. He also reiterated Iran's contention that the hostages are being well treated and fed and said they are living in good hotels.

Raja'i Comment--Following a 20 December meeting of the Supreme Defense Council, Prime Minister Raja'i told Tehran radio that his earlier statements that the hostages could be released quickly if the United States provided the appropriate guarantees have been "misconstrued by some people" to the effect that Iran has "forgone all conditions" and will be satisfied by one U.S. guarantee. "This is not so," Raja'i asserted. Noting that there are "no difficulties" with the noninterference condition and that the United States "should pay" money "owed to us," the prime minister admitted that the question of the late shah's assets is "not so clear" and that "there is no accurate information to be put forward concerning its amount." Therefore, he said, Iran has proposed that the U.S. Government place a guaranteed sum in the Algerian Central Bank to cover the shah's assets. Raja'i added that as long as the "smallest part" of these conditions remains unfulfilled "the hostages will not leave Iran."

Radio Comment--A strongly worded unattributed commentary on Tehran radio attacked the U.S. "deceitful game" over the hostages and said it is now the United States that must decide "whether to leave its Christmas tree unlit again next year or to take the correct steps to secure the release of the American spies."

Iran Domestic Affairs

Qotbzadeh Accusation--AFP reported that the religious fundamentalist newspaper AZADEGAN accused former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh of having been paid $1 million by the United States to secure the release of the American hostages. AFP said Qotbzadeh had earlier denied similar accusations against him by former Iranian Ambassador in Paris Amir Alai.

Demonstration Cancellation--An unattributed commentary on Tehran radio's Arabic service denied "rumors invented by colonialist circles" that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's cancellation of demonstrations last week was prompted by fear that clashes and even civil war might ensur. Only a "very small minority," the radio said, would have organized a "counterrevolutionary" demonstration against the "roaring masses."

Iran-USSR Bank Nationalization--Tehran radio reported that by the end of January 1981 Iran will have completely taken over the management of the Iran-USSR bank, which has been fully owned by the Soviet Union since inception. The radio stated that the decision followed two rounds of talks with a Soviet delegation and is in line with the Iranian Constitution and postrevolution legislation.

Nabavi on Parties, Disturbances--In his press conference reported by Tehran radio, Minister of State Nabavi said that although the Tudeh Party can freely act in Iran, the Supreme Council of Justice recently submitted a proposal to the government concerning the activities of political parties. He said the prime minister's office has divided political groups into those that support the republic and will be allowed, "favorable" groups whose views will be taken into consideration, "opposing" groups that will be permitted to operate under "certain circumstances" and "hostile" groups that will not be tolerated "under any circumstances."

Nabavi went on to accuse Iraq of fomenting disturbances in Iranian schools and claimed that a recent statement by former Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar has been used by "counterrevolutionary elements of the left and the right" to "create disorder in the schools."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Fighting continued along most fronts, Tehran radio reported, with Iranian artillery shelling Iraqi positions around Dezful, Abadan and Khuninshahr (formerly Khorramshahr). Iranian ground forces clashed with Iraqi troops near Susangerd, Darkhovin, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar, Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin, the radio went on, adding that 100 Iraqis were killed on the Bazideraz heights. Iranian Air Force planes were in action again, the radio said, hitting Iraqi targets at Panjwin. The Iraq General Command, in a communique carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses, reported Iraqi troops active around Susangerd, Abadan and Dezful with some casualties on both sides.

Lebanon

Damascus radio reported on 20 December that Syrian forces "intensively shelled" an Israeli tank concentration inside Lebanon in response to earlier alleged Israeli shelling that killed three Syrians. Jerusalem radio confirmed the Syrian shelling but reported that an Israeli Defense Force spokesman denied the presence of any Israeli tank concentration in southern Lebanon. In an interview with the radio's military correspondent, Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori described the death of the three Syrians as a "regrettable incident" and said Israel is "not interested in any confrontation with any of its neighbors" but merely wishes to deal with Palestinian "terrorists." In another radio interview, the Israeli chief of staff, Refa'el Eytan, said that the Syrians were killed "because they were in the wrong place" and questioned what the Syrians were doing there anyway.

Beirut radio reported continued shelling from both sides in the south and noted that Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus has instructed Lebanon's UN Security Council delegate Ghassan Tuwayni to lodge a complaint against Israel following its recent actions in Lebanon.

Egypt

Cairo radio reported that Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din has reaffirmed Egypt's refusal to permit the establishment of foreign bases on Egyptian soil and has insisted that U.S. installations set up for military exercises be dismantled following the termination of the exercises. Speaking to the People's Assembly, Dr Muhyi ad-Din said Egypt has refused U.S. and Israeli requests for U.S. use of Israeli-built airbases in the Sinai currently due to be handed over to Egypt.

YAR

In an interview with the UAE newspaper ASH-SHARIQAH AL-KHALIJ, Sultan Ahmad 'Umar, leader of the Yemeni National Democratic Front, confirmed earlier reports of fighting between his forces and YAR troops in the northern part of the country. The front leader said the government forces attacked his strongholds in an attempt to create internal unrest that eventually "would encourage forces hostile to our people to intervene in our internal affairs." Ahmad 'Umar stressed that talks between the government and the front are continuing and expressed the hope that they will solve the problems."

DAILY REPORT

South Asia

Vol VIII No 247 *22 December 1980*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

IRAN

Developments Concerning U.S., Hostages I 1
Algerians Depart With Reply I 1
Text of Reply I 1
Raja'i Interview I 5
Tehran Commentary I 6
Nabavi Questioned on Domestic Issues, Hostages I 7
More on Hostages I 9
U.S. Warned Against Occupying Gulf Islands I 9
Commentary Explores Reagan Cabinet Choices I 10
Deatils of 20-22 Dec Khomeyni Meetings Reported I 11
Meetings With Bani-Sadr, Others I 11
Meeting With Ardakani I 12
Tabriz, Shiraz Clergymen I 12
Majlis Foreign Relations Commission Holds Session I 12
Bani-Sadr Meets With Supreme Defense Council I 13
Bani-Sadr in Khuzestan on Inspection Tour I 13
Meeting With Commanders I 13
Raja'i Discusses Refugee Problem With Officials I 13
Naval Commander on Mining Coastal Regions I 14
Central Bank Statement on Nationalization of Bank I 14
ETTELA'AT Interviews Peyman on State Affairs [4 Dec] I 15
AZADEGAN Prints Qotbzadeh Hostage Bribe Photo I 16
PARS Reports Continued Support From Pakistan I 16
Bangladesh Muslims, Democratic Party Support Iran I 17
Commentary Scores Saudi Oil Supply to Philippines I 17
Tehran: Iraqi Intelligence Chief Assassinated I 18
Further Details I 18
NIOC Radio Reports on Discontent in Iraq I 18
Iraqi Council Members Banned From Leaving Iraq I 19
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communiques 342-344 I 19
342: Unity Causes Victory I 19
343: Recent Military Clashes I 20
344: Casualty Reports I 21
Situation, Battles on Southern Front Detailed I 22
Shelling of Ahvaz, Dezful I 22
20 Dec Battle Successes I 22
Warning on Rumormongers I 23
Tehran Reports on Fighting in Western Region I 23
'Triumphal Battles' I 23
Fighting in Shush I 24
Clashes Continue I 24
Kurdish Radio Reports Heavy Clashes in Mahabad I 25
[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]
Execution of Kurds [Voice of Iranian Kordestan] I 25
NVOI 19 Dec Commentaries on Domestic Issues I 26

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. HOSTAGES, NEGOTIATIONS

Algerian's Depart With Reply

LD200133 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2345 GMT 19 Dec 80

[Text] The fraternal Algerian delegation left Tehran today after a visit during which they held talks with officials in the Islamic Republic on the fate of the American hostages. The delegation includes the Algerian ambassadors to Iran and the United States and a number of senior Algerian officials from the economic and financial sectors. The Algerian delegation is carrying the final reply of the Islamic government to the Washington government concerning the hostages.

Text of Reply

LD211142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1041 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] The full text of the Iran Government's reply to America in connection with the release of the U.S. hostages was issued today as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Islamic Iranian Government's reply to the American Government through the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria in connection with the Islamic Consultative Assembly's decree concerning the release of the 52 American hostages held by the Iranian nation:

On 2 November 1980, the Islamic Consultative Assembly announced its decree with regard to the release of the 52 Americans. On 3 November 1980, the decree was handed over, in Persian and English, to the Algerian ambassador in Washington in order to make it available to the U.S. Government.

On 12 November 1980, the U.S. reply, made on 8 November, was handed over to the Iranian Government through the representatives of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria in a note dated 12 November 1980. Since some of the terms mentioned in the decree issued by the Islamic Consultative Assembly had been left unanswered in the reply from the said government, or had not been clarified, during a meeting held in Tehran on 22 November 1980 with the representatives of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria they were therefore requested to ask the American Government to give its response to the aforesaid points as soon as possible.

In a note dated 4 December 1980, the Algerian Government's representatives handed over in Tehran a supplementary reply by America to the Islamic Republic of Iran. After both replies had been studied and the explanations made by the Algerian delegation had been heard, the following results were achieved:

Despite acceptance by the U.S. Government of the principle of the decree issued by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the undertakings proposed by the said government were not considered to be responsive to all the terms raised by the Islamic Consultative Assembly; and in certain cases certain amendments in the replies were deemed to be necessary, as well as changes in procedural methods; only through such amendments and changes were they considered to be the necessary minimum acceptable to the Islamic Iranian Government.

The amendemnts, changes and procedural methods emcompassing the views of the Islamic Iranian Government, on the basis of the decree issued by Islamic Consultative Assembly, are as follows:

Amendments pertaining to the U.S. reply to clause one of the decree issued by the Islamic Consultative Assembly: In view of the fact that official recognition of the revolution and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a fait accompli, that there is no request in the decree issued by the Islamic Consultative Assembly for such recognition, and also, the Majlis decree uses the term henceforth, therefore the question of recognition of the Islamic revolution and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is deleted from the statement, to be replaced by the term noninterference. Considering these explanations, the statement issued by the U.S. Government concerning noninterference in Iran is amended as follows:

Noninterference in Iran: The U.S. Government hereby undertakes not to interfere henceforth in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, directly, indirectly militarily or politically.

In addition to the aforementioned amendments to the statement, it is necessary to correct the U.S. reply in general on the basis of the aforementioned amendments.

Procedural method for the implemention of the second and third clauses of the decree issued by the Islamic Consultative Assembly: Considering that the U.S. Government has accepted the principles of the second and third clauses of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's decree, the following procedural methods are thus proposed:

I. Actions by the U.S. Government: While carrying out the necessary legal and administrative measures aimed at implementing all the terms outlined in the second and third clauses of the decree issued by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, it will also take these steps:

A. Return of $9,069,000 of the Iranian assets [this figure and several subsequent figures are given in millions and later corrected by the Tehran radio announcer to billions], in addition to relevant interest at going rates, as well as the gold belonging to Iran held by the New York Federal Reserve Bank, and transfer them to the Algerian Central Bank prior to the release of the 52 Americans held hostage by the Iranian nation. As soon as the 52 Americans are released, these assets will be handed over to the Iranian Government after deduction of the sums stipulated in clauses A and B of the second part.

The following is the breakdown of the assets:

1. Deposits made by the Iranian Central Bank with American banks in London: $3,518,000,000;

2. Deposits made by the Iranian Central Bank with American banks in Paris: $400 million;

3. Deposits made by the Iranian Central Bank with American banks in America: $167 million;

4. Deposits of other Iranian banks with American banks: $300 million;

5. Deposits of the NIOC: $407 million;

6. Sums connected with the sale of oil: $2,108,000,000;

7. Treasury bonds of the Iranian Central Bank with the Federal Reserve Bank: $1.1 billion;

8. Deposits of the Iranian Central Bank with the Federal Reserve Bank: $269 million;

9. Revolving funds of the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran: $800 million;

Grand total: $9,069,000,000

10. The Iranian Central Bank's gold with the Federal Reserve Bank amounting to 1,632,827 ounces.

B. With regard to other Iranian assets and property controlled or seized by the American Government, American nationals or American companies inside or outside America, the American Government, while giving an undertaking that all of them will be returned, will make a guarantee equivalent to $4 billion in cash, or any other reliable guarantee which is acceptable to the Algerian Central Bank, as a guarantee that it will fulfill its undertaking, and will deposit it with the said bank, so that as soon as the 52 Americans are released, the aforementioned assets and property may be handed over to the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives to be transferred to Iran.

For each part of the above-mentioned assets and property an equal sum of the same value will be deducted from the deposits made in the Algerian Central Bank.

C. The American Government will give the necessary undertaking with regard to answering any claim for damages brought about by the Islamic revolution of Iran and incurred by American nationals, companies and organizations, when such damages were not the outcome of decisions made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the explanations for which were handed over to the Algerian delegation on 10 December 1980, as follows:

The phrase "in connection with the Islamic Iranian revolution," means all the claims connected with any damage or losses suffered by American individuals and companies as a result of the Iranian people's revolutionary movement from 11 February 1979 up to this date, and which are not a result of decisions taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

D. In order to check and verify a list of assets and property within U.S. jurisdiction, or those under the control of the American Government, nationals and companies outside America, since the agents of the deposed shah have destroyed a great many of the documents pertaining to assets and property belonging to Iran in America before the fall of the aforementioned regime, the U.S. Government should make available to the Iranian Government through the Algerian Government within 1 week from the date of receiving this note a detailed list of these assets and property belonging to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as to Iranian companies and institutions.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Government should undertake to take immediate step to transfer to the Government of the Islamic Republic all the assets and property belonging to Iran which are probably not included in the present lists and which might come up in the future.

[Announcer stops reading of reply to make the following correction: "Before we continue any further with this statement, please allow me to correct the figure of $9 million to $9 billion."]

II. Actions by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Simultaneously with the U.S. Government's implementation of all the steps mentioned above, the Iranian Government will undertake the following measures:

A. Considering that all claims pertaining to failure to fulfill loan contracts and their change into current loans as well as the clearings made by American banks are to be canceled and made void, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while undertaking to repay installments toward the true debts resulting from these loans and credits made in the past, hereby authorizes and permits the Algerian Government to retain a sum of $1 billion in connection with the delayed installments pertaining to the aforementioned loans, and, having studied the figures in each of the contracts, to repay the agreed sums to American banks. After the debts have been settled, the remaining sum should be transferred to Iran.

B. In view of the fact that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran undertakes to repay its true debts to American nationals and companies, the Iranian Government accepts that the existing claims by American companies and nationals against Iran, as well as claims and litigation by Iranian nationals and companies against American nationals and companies, should be settled, initially through an agreement reached between the two sides, or, should this fail, through arbitration acceptable to both parties.

In order to repay the aforementioned debts, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will provide an initial cash guarantee amounting to $1 billion, or any other guarantee acceptable to the Algerian Central Bank, to the Algerian Government. In the course of repayment of these loans, this guarantee will be topped up, so that at no time will it fall below $500 billion.

Needless to say, the said guarantee will not include claims mentioned above, concerning the consequences of the occupation of the former U.S. Embassy, the consequences of the taking of hostages by the Iranian nation or of reactions by the American Government, or claims stemming from the consequences of the Islamic Iranian revolution.

Procedural method for the implementation of the fourth clause, as approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly: Considering that the assets and property of the deceased shah and his close relatives have been confiscated and the specified parts have already been seized for the benefit of the Iranian nation, and since a substantial amount of this wealth is outside Iran, particularly in America, therefore considering that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is at present not in possession of full information about the amount of the assets and property of the aforementioned individuals, the assets and property which have been plundered, on 10 December 1980 it asked the American Government through the Algerian delegation to take immediate steps to provide the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with a list of all the assets and property of the deceased shah and his close relatives--a list of which has already been forwarded--on the basis of information available before 4 November 1979 and at the present time in order to speed up the implementation of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's decree and the order for the confiscation of the aforementioned wealth issued by the public prosecutor. As the American Government has not so far made any useful information available to Iran, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran requests that, while fulfilling all the proposed measures, the American Government should take the following measures as well:

A. As the American Government, by setting a period of grace in connection with gathering information concerning the frozen assets and Iran's property, has made it the duty of its citizens and companies against payment of fines or prison terms to provide the relevant information to the U.S. Treasury, in this connection too the American Government should take steps to set a 30-day grace period with regard to all legal and commercial matters as well as imposing a fine and prison terms for the gathering of relevant information concerning the aforementioned assets and property. It should also issue the necessary instructions.

B. The American Government should freeze all the assets and property belonging to the deceased shah and his close relatives until a final result is achieved.

C. In addition to all the aforementioned measures in connection with identifying the assets and property of the deceased shah and his close relatives which are at present in America, the American Government should also identify all the assets and property belonging to the deposed shah and close relatives which were in America on 3 November 1979, and so inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran within the aforementioned period.

D. Information should be provided by the American Government about the nature, source, destination, and agents responsible for the transfer of assets and property which might have been transferred from U.S. jurisdiction from the time of the success of the Islamic revolution up till receipt of this reply.

E. The American Government must undertake to provide a cash guarantee equivalent to $10 billion, or any other guarantee acceptable to the Algerian Government, being a percentage of the wealth plundered from the Iranian nation by the deceased shah and his relatives, as a guarantee of good intention to fulfill this undertaking; this should be deposited in the Algerian Central Bank, so that:

1. Should the American Government refuse to inform the Iranian Government about parts of the assets and property of the shah and his relatives, which would be discovered and proven by the Iranian Government;

2. Should the American Government refuse to issue an order for the freezing [towqif] of all the assets of the shah and his relatives or later abrogate the issued order; or

3. Should the U.S. courts refrain from complying with the order issued by the American Government for the freezing of the assets and the order for the transfer of all the said assets to the Islamic Republic Government--those already confirmed by Iranian courts--then the Algerian Government should hand over to the Iranian Government a sum equivalent to the losses incurred through one or several instances of the aforementioned cases from the guaranteed sum.

The amount of damages will be determined by arbitration acceptable to both parties. The above-mentioned guarantee constitutes good intention to fulfill the undertakings; these undertakings will no longer apply once it is announced by the Iranian Government that there are no assets or property outstanding and that the orders and decisions of the Iranian courts have been carried out by the American courts. The maximum period for notifying the absence of any assets or property and for confiscation orders issued by the Iranian courts for confiscation is 1 year. When all orders issued for the confiscation and transfer of assets to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been attended to the guarantee will be lifted.

Once all the terms set in this note have been implemented, with official confirmation by the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, the 52 Americans, taken hostage by the Iranian nation will be released.

Note: This reply has been prepared in Persian and English; should any discrepancy arise, the Persian text will be considered valid.

Raja'i Interview

LD200440 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0334 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Excerpts] The Supreme Defense Council held a session last night. During last night's session of the Supreme Defense Council, which was chaired by Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, and with the participation of all the council members, the country's war issues were discussed.

At the end of this meeting, our correspondent interviewed Prime Minister 'Ali Raja'i, to which we draw your attention: [passage omitted on discussion on salaries of conscripts, war victims]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Raja'i, after your meeting with the imam regarding the issue of the hostages, you said that if the United States were to give certain guarantees, they would be released. Would you please explain this?

[Raja'i] Yes. It seems that what I said has been misconstrued by some people--to the effect that we have forgone all conditions and will be satisfied by one guarantee by America. This is not so. All the issues between us and America, (?for the release of the hostages) are resolvable; meaning that they should fulfill the noninterference condition set by us, which is a simple thing to do. There are no difficulties there. Then there is the payment of that which is owed to us, which the United States should pay; it should do so. Then there is the question of the shah's assets, the return of which we have asked for. The problem is not so clear; there is no accurate information to be put forward concerning its amount. Therefore, we have proposed that the United States should place a guarantee with the Algerian Government, to the effect that whatever amount comes to light of the shah's assets, we could withdraw from that guarantee. This guarantee should not fall lower than a certain figure; if it does, the United States should raise it to its original amount. Therefore, I hope that our reply will soon be printed in the papers; we have been granted permission on this. It will be published.

It is very apt that the dear compatriots should note that what I stated in connection with the hostages was about the condition whose fulfillment requires receiving a guarantee. Otherwise we will abide by all the conditions laid down by the Majlis, and so long as the smallest part of these conditions remains unfulfilled, the hostages will not leave Iran.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Tehran Commentary

LD201400 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Unattributed "political commentary"]

[Text] The West's propaganda has a complex, obnoxious nature. The voice of the arch-Satan, in its news broadcasts, has said: For the second consecutive year the lights on the White House Christmas tree are dimmed because of the continued capitivity of the 52 U.S. hostages in Iran. During the ceremonies held last night in this connection President Carter only placed a star of hope above the Christmas tree and at the same time called on all peace-loving men and women in the world to pray for a speedy, safe release of the U.S. hostages, who have ahead of them the prospect of a second Christmas in captivity.

Such a show of meekness by those who are the demigods of lies, deceit and stratagems is not all that unsual. By displaying such reactions the United States is attempting to portray the absence of the U.S. hostages as a tragedy which has pained the heart of the United States. But this trick, like all U.S. strategems, is nothing but a deceitful game.

More than a year has passed since November of last year when a number of spies, who had spent a lifetime torturing, intimidating, oppressing and meting out injustice to this deprived nation, became the hostages of the Muslim nation of Iran.

During the past year, U.S. imperialism studied and resorted to any means in order to condemn the Islamic revolution and to save the lives of the U.S. hostages. Despite all of its claims, the United States is not trying to secure the release of the hostages, but is trying to turn the issue into a political toy. Instead of accepting Iran's conditions regarding the shah's extradition and the return of his wealth to this oppressed nation, the United States has resorted to forceful measures and has tried to resist the nation of Iran by military invasion. All of the efforts of the West seek to damage the reputation and credibility of the Iranian revolution.

The military attack on Tabas, the U.S.-instigated coup which was nipped in the bud, economic sanctions and the like, are all connected to the efforts of the West to isolate our revolution, rather than to any efforts concerning the hostage issue.

None of these measures has been effective. When, by the imam's order, the fate of the hostages was put into the hands of the Islamic Majlis and when the Majlis made decisions in this connection and proposed certain conditions to the U.S. Government, many more facts came to light. While the United States is making so much noise over the hostage issue and while the families of the hostages are invited to give daily interviews to television networks in order to create a scene and to elevate this hostage taking to the level of a tragic incident--pretending that the heart of America is beating in the U.S. den of espionage and in the bodies of the American spies--an announcement has suddenly been made--following the announcement of the conditions by Iran--that it is impossible for the United States to accept part of these conditions.

It is interesting to note that as this drama is lengthened the masked faces of the characters of this drama are exposed more than ever. The United States may now have to officially announce that these hostages are of the same value to it as the thousands of Americans killed in Vietnam; that is nothing. Until now, whatever has been said has been propaganda to comdemn and misrepresent the Islamic Republic of Iran. Nevertheless, it is now the United States which must decide whether to leave its Christmas tree unlit again next year or to take the correct steps to secure the release of the American spies. With the clarification of Iran's proposals, Mr Carter had better fulfill the conditions set by the Iranian Government, which are the least of its rights against the crimes committed by the United States, and realise the hope of the release of these spies instead of lighting the star of hope on top of the White House Christmas tree. Carter cannot hope for the release of even one hostage by lighting up the star and similar fox-like tricks.

Everyone knows that it is now the U.S. Government which should prepare the grounds for the release of the hostages if it values the lives of its spies. Despite all the excuses produced by the United States, Iran has clarified all the vague points of the issue through the Algerian Government and, in order to speed up the acceptance of Iran's proposals, Iran has included several points in the proposals. After the meeting between the imam and the prime minister, the Iranian Government, faced with all these excuses, announced its final response, that is, that the U.S. Government should transfer all Iranian assets and gold reserves to the national bank of Algeria and give the Algerian Government assurances that it will carry out its undertakings. Therefore, this final, unambiguous reply by Iran should persuade the U.S. Government to find a logical solution so that 1 year after the hostage taking, which is the least punishment for the U.S. crimes, necessary steps can be taken to secure their release. The recent response by the Iranian Government, which is our last word to the United States, shows that we are not able to release the hostages before our demands are met. It is the United States that should now act and fulfill Iran's proposals for the release of the hostages. Surely, this will not be made possible by lighting the start of hope on the White House Christmas tree by his nibs, the president.

NABAVI QUESTIONED ON DOMESTIC ISSUES, HOSTAGES

LD211908 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1646 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs, today attended a press conference and answered questions put to him by domestic and foreign correspondents.

Commenting on the increased supply of rationed gasoline, he said that our production at the moment is a little more than our consumption, we have decided to increase the amount of the ration. Of course, public transport such as taxis and buses will receive priority.

On the question of the second phase in the distribution of gasoline coupons, Mr Nabavi said that the new coupons will be made available to vehicle owners from the middle of the month of Dey [from 5 January 1981].

Commenting on the future of the Ministry of Guidance, Mr Nabavi said that the ministry is now engaged in drafting new bills to regulate working conditions for its employees.

Asked to explain the reason for the fact that the Council of Ministers, [shora-yt vaziran] is incomplete, Mr Nabavi replied: One of the conditions that the prime minister considered for the appointment of his ministers was their adherence to the Islamic doctrine, and candidates with special abilities are appointed.

Asked to comment on why the Tudeh Party is freely active, Mr Nabavi replied: In Iran today, the Tudeh Party is not the only party that is freely active. There are many parties which are active and that is because there is no particular law regulating them. The Supreme Council of Justice recently submitted a proposal concerning the activities of the political parties.

The proposal defines what parties can remain active under what circumstances and what parties should be banned. This proposal is currently under discussion at the Interior Ministry and the Cabinet [kabineh]

Mr Nabavi was asked to elaborate on his recent contacts with representatives of the Fedai'yan-e Khalq guerrilla [Cherikha-ye] organization. He replied that there is a deputy for social and political affairs at the Prime Ministry office responsible for these matters. Any organization or group can refer to this office and perhaps the said organization contacted that office. Mr Nabavi added: We have divided the groups into four sections:

1. Groups supporting the Islamic Republic, which we will allow.

2. Favorable groups, whose views we will take into consideration.

3. Opposing groups, which we will allow to be active under certain circumstances.

4. Hostile groups with which we will not have the least compromise under any circumstances.

The minister was asked to elaborate on the Iranian Government's stand in regard to the plot hatched against the Islamic revolution jointly by Britain and the Soviet Union on the one hand and France and the United States on the other. Mr Nabavi replied: Our policy is on the basis of neither West nor East, and we do not concern ourselves with what the superpowers' attitude might be concerning our policy, because our supporters comprise Almighty God and the people, and this is enough for us. Told that the United States planned to occupy the three southern Iranian islands, he replied: Such talk has been prevalent for some time, and we should warn the regional countries to remain vigilant against such plots. Mr Nabavi added that since the United States emerged defeated from the forced war, unable to achieve its aims, it is now contemplating entering from another door. The United States has prepared a task force to enter the Persian Gulf under special circumstances, and the best pretext for the United States to do so is to create instability in the region. We warn all the regional countries to remain vigilant against this plot, because should instability be created in the region, no regional country could benefit from such a development.

Commenting on the disturbances in schools, the minister of state for executive affairs said: The forced war waged against us by the mercenary Iraqi Ba'th regime was aimed at the downfall of the Islamic Republic regime. Since the Iraqis did not achieve their aim they are now trying to close our schools. In this connection, Bakhtiar also issued a statement and the counterrevolutionary elements of the left and the right [words indistinct] used it to create disorder in the schools.

Asked whether the topic would once again be referred to the Islamic Consultative Assembly if the U.S. fails to respond on the hostage issue, Mr Nabavi replied: If the U.S. Government implements our conditions partially, then we will be forced to ask the Majlis its views on the matters which have not been implemented.

Asked to elaborate on the fact that the prime minister expressed the view that the question of the hostages is a dead issue, Mr Nabavi replied: This issue [Raja'i's remarks] has been distorted, and remarks made by Mr Raja'i that the question of the hostages is a dead issue means, as far as we are concerned, that there is no point in our wasting time over it, so from our point of view it is over. Asked to comment on the future of Iranian-American relations, if the hostages are released, Mr Nabavi replied: We consider the United States to be the great devil, and it has been repeated several times by the imam that our war with the United States will not be over following the return of the hostages, and as long as the United States continues with its suppression we will not have any relation with it, and there will be no improvement.

Asked to comment on steps for the recovery of the $400 million of arms purchased from the United States [by the former regime], Mr Nabavi said: As said before, we did not mention the topic of arms in our discussions, and it is our natural right to ask the United States to deliver arms belonging to us, and this is why we want the U.S. to give us guarantees on this issue.

More on Hostages

NC210748 Paris AFP in English 0746 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Tehran, 21 Dec (AFP)--Iran will free the 52 American hostages 24 hours after the United States accepts the conditions set by Iran for their release, government spokesman Behzad Nabavi told a press conference here today.

He also indicated that the trust fund which Iran has stipulated the United States shall place in the Algerian Central Bank should amount to 10,000 million dollars and be available for a one-year period. After that Iran would no longer be able to draw on it, Mr Nabavi said.

Mr Nabavi also said today that if American replies to Iran were not satisfactory, Iran could keep the American hostages for 10 years.

The hostages were meanwhile being very well treated, living in the best hotels where they were well fed in spite of Iran's Gulf war with Iraq, he added.

U.S. WARNED AGAINST OCCUPYING GULF ISLANDS

JN211946 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1842 GMT 21 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] On its first page, the newspaper KEYHAN published the statements made by Colonel Fakuri, minister of defense and commander of the Iranian Air Force, to the paper's correspondent on news reports cited by some foreign news agencies on a possible U.S. attempt to occupy some Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. He warned against launching any aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: We have heard such rumors, but I think they are baseless. However, he said, we will continue to investigate this subject.

On Iran's reaction should America occupy these islands, Colonel Fakuri said: Iran's reaction to America, should the latter want to attack us, will be strong and we will treat it the way we treat any aggressor.

On the situation on the fronts in the fighting with the Iraqi forces, the defense minister said: The situation on all fronts is good.

In reply to a question on the Iraqi regime's call on the EEC states to mediate to end the war and gain a cease-fire, he said: The EEC states, as far as I know, have not made any contact with us on this subject.

COMMENTARY EXPLORES REAGAN CABINET CHOICES

GF202030 Zahedan International Service in Urdu 1530 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] There is about a month left before the transfer of power from the Carter administration to Reagan. The world is speculating on the eight Cabinet members chosen by Reagan who will be proposed to the U.S. Senate.

Ronald Reagan, after the 4 November election victory, got down to selecting the Cabinet members cautiously and diligently. As Reagan belongs to the right wing of the Republican Party, it was obvious that his Cabinet, in order to safeguard the interests of international imperialism and Zionism, would consist of individuals who would safeguard the interests of imperialism at any cost. It was also said that Reagan would include men in his Cabinet who would work to further his extremist policies and not be an obstacle to his internal and foreign policies.

With the selection of 8 members out of a Cabinet of 13, speculation by the informed quarters has come true. [passage indistinct]

The first to be introduced included Caspar Weinberger as secretary of defense and Donald Regan, who sounds like a relative of Reagan though he is not related to him. He was appointed secretary of the Treasury. After that, the President-elect introduced William French Smith as attorney general, Malcolm Baldrige as commerce secretary, Richard Schweiker as secretary of health and human services and Drew Lewis as secretary of transportation. [passage indistinct] General Haig was introduced as secretary of state. Besides this, Reagan introduced William French Smith, his personal lawyer, as U.S. attorney general, David Stockman as director of the U.S. Budget and William Casey as the head of the CIA.

The two-thirds of the Cabinet named so far renders an analysis of the Cabinet easy. The appointment of General Haig as secretary of state is under discussion in internal and foreign circles. His appointment clearly indicates that U.S. foreign policy will be based on military priorities. This Cabinet cannot be isolated from the perspective of these military priorities. The French news agency attributed Haig's political position to Henry Kissinger and Nixon. This general performed military duties for 2 years--from 1966 to 1968--in the Vietnam war. He was 44 at the time. He was chosen as the head of security affairs in Nixon's Cabinet. He has also been the commander of the NATO pact. He earned the reputation of a military strategist on the basis of his military performance in Vietnam, Korea and Japan. His military record reflects the trend of the new U.S. Government's policy regarding the use of force.

It may also be pointed out that the selection of this 56-year-old general as secretary of state poses some difficulties for Reagan. It was speculated that Reagan would not be able to appoint him because of his complicity in the Watergate affair, but this obstacle was overcome and Reagan, by appointing General Haig, made his policies clear to Americans and the world. Reagan had already said that Haig's complicity in Watergate would not affect his prospects of confirmation as secretary of state.

To have a better evaluation of Reagan's Cabinet, the appointment of the man who has been selected as Treasury secretary should also be considered. His position occupied second place in order of priorities. Regan appointed Donald Reagan to this office.

He is not related to Reagan and does not have a high political stature or image, but political critics think he has the potential to speedily execute the policies of the President-elect. A look at his record shows that he is known for his interesting views during the economic crisis the United States has been facing the last few years. These views have been proved to be true. One of his opinions is that inflation is the core of U.S. economic ills. His policy will be based on ending inflation.

Reagan's selection as attorney general is also very interesting. He has chosen his personal lawyer as attorney general. This choice will also lend strength to his Cabinet.

The appointment of George Bush, former head of the CIA, as the President-elect's adviser also poses many problems. This proves that the new government is quite willing to include well-known CIA personalities in the government.

The selection of the remaining five Cabinet members will help to provide a complete picture of the U.S. Cabinet and its policies.

It is also being predicted that two black individuals--a man and a woman--will be chosen to win the support of black Americans.

Another appointment likely to pose difficulty for Reagan is the selection of his press secretary. The press secretary is required to declare his assets to the American people. Since the appointment is made from educated and capable correspondents who happen to be wealthy and who have always been at odds with the government's financial politics, the offer of the appointment is seldom accepted. Let's see who is chosen for this office.

These appointments show that Reagan prefers Republicans who are hawks. The near future will tell what policy the United States is going to pursue and what effect it has on world politics.

DETAILS OF 20-22 DEC KHOMEYNI MEETINGS REPORTED

Meetings With Bani-Sadr, Others

LD201152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council; the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and the defense minister were received in audience this morning by the imam of the Islamic nation. They discussed with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the overall situation on the fronts and relevant problems.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Qoddusi, the public prosecutor general of the Islamic revolution, was received in audience this morning by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to whom he reported on the work of the revolution courts.

The members of the delegation selected by the imam to investigate the work of the foundation of the oppressed were also received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The delegation reported to the iman on the foundation's work.

According to a PARS report, the participants in the all-Iranian seminar of Islamic factory associations were received in audience this morning by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following 3 days of discussions and investigations into labor problems conducted at workers' houses. It is noteworthy that this seminar was held with the cooperation of the information office of the martyr Motahhari high school and the personnel department of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Meeting With Ardakani

LD221206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Text] Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani, ambassador of the Islamic Republic in Kuwait, was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who briefed him on his foreign assignments. After the meeting, he said to PARS: I reported to the imam of the nation on the increasing momentum Islamic values are gaining in Islamic countries. Dr Ardakani added: Islamic criteria in Arab countries have rendered the (?Western-oriented) Arabs politically bankrupt; this, on its own, has become a link joining the Iranian Muslim masses with the peoples of these countries. One can turn this coordination on an international level into influence wielded by Islamic forces against the anti-Islamic front. This is precisely what frightens both the West and the East.

A positive aspect of this is the ability of the Islamic countries to face the superpowers. Consequently, the superpowers are trying to consolidate their footholds in certain Islamic countries before this force succeeds in demonstrating its influence on an international level. However, with the defeat of Iraq's plot and the cooperation of America and reaction in creating a suitable climate for an American Islam, a new era is coming with regard to a diplomatic assault by the Islamic powers, with the possibility of cooperation between the masses and Islamic countries.

Tabriz, Shiraz Clergymen

GF211346 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] The leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, received Shiraz Friday Imam Ayatollah Seyyed 'Abdol Hoseyn Dastgheyb and Tabriz Majlis Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Abolfazl Musavi this morning. The imam received them and spoke to them separately.

MAJLIS FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION HOLDS SESSION

LD211818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1713 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Bureau, the Foreign Relations Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly held a session this afternoon at which the prime minister Mr Raja'i, and Mr Shams Ardakani [ambassador to Kuwait] were present. Issues of foreign policy and relations between the Government of the Islamic Republic and various countries, including the countries of the region, were discussed and views were exchanged. During this session, Mr Raja'i made some remarks on this issue, and Mr Shams Ardakani presented a report on foreign policy together with some proposals.

The defense commission of the Majlis also held a session this afternoon during which the news committee of the commission presented some reports to the members. Some reports were then presented to the commission from the western and southern fronts. In this context it was decided that in the near future they should discuss related issues with the Foreign Relations Commission.

Among the issues raised at this commission was a review of the American proposals on the hostages.

BANI-SADR MEETS WITH SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL

LD191735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1641 GMT 19 Dec 80

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the Supreme Defense Council met this evening under Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief. In the meeting, which was attended by all members of the Supreme Defense Council, the war situation in the country was raised and discussed.

BANI-SADR IN KHUZESTAN ON INSPECTION TOUR

LD201646 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sard, the president and commander in chief of the armed forces, following his 2-day stay in Tehran and his meeting with the nation's imam, today arrived in a Khuzestan city to review and inspect the valiant Iranian combatants' activities on the war fronts.

Meeting With Commanders

LD212102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] The situation at the war fronts was reviewed tonight in a meeting attended by Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, with the participation of General Zahir Nezhad, commander of the army, and a number of other commanders of forces stationed in Khuzestan.

According to a PARS report, at this meeting a report concerning operations by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran was presented by the commanders. Ways of countering the Iraqi mercenary forces by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were then discussed and reviewed.

RAJA'I DISCUSSES REFUGEE PROBLEM WITH OFFICIALS

LD201210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister; Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, the minister of interior; Mostafa Mir-Salim, the political under secretary to the Interior Ministry; and supervisors of the Red Crescent Society and the imam's relief committee, held a meeting this morning at which they discussed our war-stricken compatriots' problems and difficulties.

Following the meeting, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani was interviewed, during which he said: At the meeting we discussed the manner in which help is sent to war refugees, the quality of the work and management of relevant affairs, and the requisite statistical study of the delivery of provisions. He also said: A number of our camps in the cities of Jiroft, [name indistinct], Behbahan, Borujerd and several other areas have been made ready and a group of our war-stricken compatriots have been housed in these camps.

At the conclusion of Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani's interview, the interior minister requested the war-stricken compatriots to cooperate with the government in order to enable it to improve the necessary services for transferring compatriots to the camps.

NAVAL COMMANDER ON MINING COASTAL REGIONS

JN212026 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] On its second page, the newspaper KEYHAN publishes its correspondent's report from the southern front on the war developments in that region. The correspondent says: The commander of the (?sixth) naval region in Khuninshahr has announced that our naval forces have mined all the coastal regions [words indistinct]. The enemy often retreats before our naval or ground forces' fire. Therefore, the enemy exerts efforts to occupy the naval base in Khuninshahr so that he can approach Abadan.

He added: The Iraqi forces tried to do so several times but were defeated. He said: It is unlikely that the enemy will enter the naval base of Khuninshahr with the Iranian naval forces' heroes present there.

The commander of the (?sixth) naval region in Khuninshahr added: Mines have been planted in all the coastal regions of Arvand Rud in the regions of Khuninshahr and Abadan. The Iraqi forces will not be able to reach Abadan by occupying the naval base in Khuninshahr because the heroes of the Iranian naval forces will turn this region into a new cemetery for the Iraqi forces.

He said that the naval base in Khuninshahr will be a target for the Iraqi forces because it is dealing strong blows day and night to the Iraqi forces at the western side of Khuninshahr. He added that our naval forces launched an attack against the Iraqi naval base and inflicted heavy losses on it. Moreover, a group of these forces' heroes have managed to kill Iraqi frogmen on several occasions.

CENTRAL BANK STATEMENT ON NATIONALIZATION OF BANK

LD201904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, the Central Bank of Iran has announced in a statement that management of the Iran-Russia bank shall come under the supervision of the Central Bank. Here is the statement:

In the name of God. Starting tomorrow, management of the Iran-Russia bank shall come under the supervision of the Central Bank of Iran; by the end of 20 January, the Islamic Republic of Iran shall completely take over the management of the Iran-Russia bank.

The second round of talks between the Soviet delegation, led by Mr Makeyev, first deputy chairman of the Soviet foreign trade bank, and the Iranian delegation, comprising representatives of the Central Bank, the supreme council of banks and the Foreign Ministry, led by 'Ali Reza Nobari, the governor of the Central Bank, was successfully concluded today. Consequently, in line with the Islamic Constitution, which entrusts banking to the government and no one else in Iran, and in line with the implementation of the nationalization of banks law, ratified on 7 June 1979, the 57-year operation of the Iran-Russia bank--a bank owned by the Soviet Government 100 percent--will be ended; as of the end of 20 January 1981 this bank shall come under the ownership of the Islamic Republic Government and shall be run by Iranian management.

Within the past 4 days, the joint meetings of the delegations dealt with auditing, assessing the assets and transferring ownership to Iran. Subsequently, it was decided that a Central Bank supervisor would be stationed at the Iran-Russia bank starting tomorrow and to have the ownership of the bank transferred to Iran by the end of today.

ETTELA'AT INTERVIEWS PEYMAN ON STATE AFFAIRS

LD191133 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Dec 80 p 9

[ETTELA'AT interview with Dr Habibollah Peyman--date and place not specified: "No Proposal Has Been Made To Me So Far Regarding the Assignment of Government Responsibilities"]

[Excerpts] Dr Habibollah Peyman is one of the country's leading politico-religious figures. He paid a visit to the imam last week and this prompted us to ask him questios on that visit, as well on the circulating rumors that he was [about to] accept government office, on current state affairs, including the divisive speeches and controversial issues, on foreign policy, issues relating to land reform, and methods of implementing the purge in offices and ministries.

Before the first question was asked, Dr Peyman noted that in addition to the recent meeting with the imam, he had had other meetings with him, and that whenever state affairs are brought to the imam's attention, he is well acquainted with the issues involved and with what is happening in the country. Dr Peyman noted that in his recent meeting with the imam, he raised important state issues, particularly the dangers which palpably threaten the Islamic revolution and factors which cause dissatisfaction and harm the masses. He said:

"Up to now, no proposal has been made to me regarding the assignment of government responsibilities."

[Question] In Tehran and some of the provinces, speeches have been made and there has been agitation occurring in circumstances when the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran under the leadership of the Imam Khomeyni are fighting a war with unequalled devotion and selflessness against the aggressor and lacky regime of Iraq. This has caused concern and has given rise to certain questions. In your view, what is the cause of such unrest, which must naturally grieve the imam?

[Answer] To explain clearly the reasons for this unrest, we must go back at least 2 years when the Iranian revolution attained victory through the devotion and selflessness of the barefooted ones, the slum dwellers--as the imam calls them--and the inhabitants of the back streets of Tehran and of the cities and villages of Iran, through popular devotion, which stood up to America and the automatic weapons of the [shah's] regime in such squares as the Meydan-e Shohada and in the bystreets and thoroughfares of Tehran, and the result of this resistance was the fall of the shah's regime. However, after victory, apart from a small number of revolutionaries who followed the original line of the revolution, or who played a greater role in the struggle, whether members of the clergy or not, most of the functions of government were assumed by individuals and forces whose line and actions diverged from that of the masses and the revolution. The position of these elements was not compatible with a genuine form of Islam, nor were they revolutionaries by nature.

The liberals set up a government, participated in the revolution council and took over many government posts. Many of them are still in power and hold posts of responsibility. However, on the other hand, certain members of the revolutionary clergy, who had taken part in the struggle alongside the masses and the imam, and who had participated in the victory of the revolution, had also played a part in bringing these two [i.e. the reactionaries and the liberals] to power. They put them forward and defended them, even at a time when certain genuine and committee Muslims had reservations concerning the qualifications of such elements for the leadership of the revolution. They supported both these groups during the early stage. There was then a split into two; some of the revolutionary clergy continued to support the regressive elements [presumably the "reactionaries"] while one section undertook the defense of the compromisers [the liberal element]. This situation continues today.

The result is that a small number of revolutionary clergy and original elements have remained apart from these two groups by defending the revolutionary line and the mission entrusted to them by the imam, and there has been a hidden, and sometimes open struggle for power between the two groups.

Warning from the Imam

Whenever the imam has sensed real danger to the revolution emanating from these struggles, he has brought about peace by delivering warnings and by his severe criticism of those in office; however, these warnings have not put an end to their struggles, which continue to increase in scope. It is evident to the people, and the imam has also stressed several times, that members of both groups holding office were lacking in revolutionary zeal, and what they had accomplished did not conform to the basic Islamic policy or to the revolution.

AZADEGAN PRINTS QOTBZADEH HOSTAGE BRIBE PHOTO

NC200955 Paris AFP in English 0947 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 20 Dec (AFP)--Former Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh was paid a million dollars by the United States to free the embassy hostages, an Iranian newspaper alleged today--and published a photocopy of the "cheque" to prove it.

The newspaper, AZADEGAN, which follows a religious fundamentalist line, commented in a short caption to the picture: "This is the payment to Mr Qotbzadeh from his American masters to secure the release of the hostages."

The alleged cheque, drawn on the Army National Bank, was dated May 13 1980 and bore the sentence in English "for the release of the American hostages." AZADEGAN said the photocopy had been passed on by a reader.

In September Mr Qotbzadeh told the TEHRAN TIMES that he possessed a similar photocopy. The signature on the cheque was that of a former Iranian Army officer who had held a bank account in the United States nine years ago which was now closed, he said.

The former foreign minister denied the allegation that he had been paid a million dollars, made in a French newspaper by the former Iranian ambassador to Paris, Amir Alai, who resigned in July.

Mr Qotbzadeh said he was suing Mr Alai for defamation and hinted at a "communist plot" against him.

Mr Qotbzadeh, who lost his post as foreign minister at the beginning of September, was arrested on November 8 and held for three days accused of making provocative statements on the broadcasting services, revolutionary organisations and the students holding the hostages.

Parliament debated his arrest and subsequent release five days ago [as received] and a committee was set up to examine the case.

PARS REPORTS CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM PAKISTAN

GF201807 Zahedan International Service in Urdu 1530 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] PARS, citing reliable Pakistani sources, reports that Pakistanis living in the northern part of Pakistan are praying for Iranian victory in the war imposed by Iraq on Iran. According to the report, there is perfect harmony between the youths and scholars of this area. The people are trying to help their Iranian brethren. People who do not have money offer to sell their goods and even the gold ornaments of their womenfolk to raise money to help their Iranian brethren. The report states that hundreds of thousands of rupees have been donated to Iranians afflicted by the war.

The organization of [word indistinct] Moti Bazar, Nawabshah district, Sind, Pakistan, has donated 14,000 rupees to Iranian mojahedin and war-afflicted people. The money was handed to the Iranian ambassador in Islamabad. The secretary of the organization, in a letter to the Iranian ambassador, stated that the Muslims of Nawabshah are prepared to sacrifice their lives and wealth at the command of Imam Khomeyni. The secretary also asked the Iranian ambassador to convey these sentiments to Imam Khomeyni.

Elahi Baksh Kabiri, a resident of Zafar Manzil, Mohallah Qamar Abad, Rahim Yar Khan, Pakistan, in a letter to the Iranian ambassador in Islamabad, expressed the desire to donate 1,000 rupees to war-afflicted Iranian brethren. In a letter to the management of Radio Zahedan's Urdu program, he said that he is a poor laborer and thinks day in and day out of how to help his Iranian brethren. He said that he is illiterate, but he and his wife want to offer some sacrifice for the cause of Islam so that he can proudly leave this world to be rewarded on the day of judgment.

BANGLADESH MUSLIMS, DEMOCRATIC PARTY SUPPORT IRAN

GF191416 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 80

[Text] In many letters received by the Iranian Embassy in Dacca several Bangladesh Muslims expressed their support for the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the war imposed by the agent Iraqi regime. The Bangladesh Muslims also expressed their readiness to provide any kind of aid.

PARS reported that the Bangladesh Democratic Party's committee [as heard] issued a statement during its most recent session. In this statement the committee denounced the attack of the Iraqi agent regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran and demanded the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory. The committee also declared its full solidarity with and support for the Iranian Muslim people and the Iranian Islamic revolution.

COMMENTARY SCORES SAUDI OIL SUPPLY TO PHILIPPINES

GF211754 Tehran International Service in Urdu 1315 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] At a time when Muslim revolutionary forces are revolving around the axis of the Islamic revolution, satanic forces have banded together around the edifice of Zionism and imperialism and are hatching plots against the Islamic revolution. One of them was the announcement of the Saudi decision to restart oil supplies to the Philippines. Saudi oil exports to Philippines, ruled by Marcos, were not unexpected after Iran halted exports to that country.

The Governments of Saudi Arabia and the Philippines are in fact extensions of the U.S. Government. These two countries can even be called provinces of the United States.

The most striking and interesting aspect of the policy of the American shaykhs of Saudi Arabia is the fact that they claim to support the Muslims in the southern Philippines on one hand while helping the Marcos government by supplying it with oil on the other. We are convinced that it is done at the behest of their U.S. masters.

We also observe that relations between the Philippines and the reactionary powers of the region are improving. Iraq is at the top of that list.

The United States is working on the strategy of bringing together countries that are under its influence and whose governments are at odds with their Muslim populations to use them in crushing Muslim movements. Since 1965 Marcos has repeatedly shown his allegiance to his American masters by suppressing the Muslim Filipinos and Muslim students living in his country.

The reactionary governments of the Middle East, among which are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq, are fulfilling the Philippines' oil needs. They have also taken other steps to help the Philippines. All this points to the fact that these governments are the supporters of Marcos and enemies of Islam. Saudi Arabia carries out this aid on behalf of all the reactionary governments of the region, which are in fact U.S. bases. It was at the orders of the United States that Saudi Arabia again started supplying oil to the Marcos government. This has greately endangered the Moro liberation movement. If these Muslims of the Philippines choose to bank upon Saudi help, they will also start thinking in terms of a compromise with the Marcos government. The help of the American shaykhs of Saudi Arabia will impair their real Islamic spirit and fervor. [passage indistinct]

Iran's Islamic revolution is a source of inspiration for the Moro Muslims. We certainly hope that the day is not far off when the sun of the freedom of the Moro Muslims will arise.

TEHRAN: IRAQI INTELLIGENCE CHIEF ASSASSINATED

LD201712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] A PARS report from Ahvaz says that over the past 24 hours enemy positions have been the target of ceaseless barrage by our forces on the Susangerd front. In the northwest sector of Susangerd, the Iraqi mercenaries, having retreated between 5 to 7 km and suffering 20 casualties, left a considerable quantity of their equipment behind. In the course of the battle, eight Islamic defenders were wounded.

A report from inside the enemy sector says that sabotage operations against Iraqi installations by Ad-Da'wan Party mujahidin are gaining momentum, that on 1 December they succeeded in assassinating Colonel Sa'dun, the Iraqi chief of intelligence and counterintelligence.

Further Details

JN210901 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI quotes travelers arriving in Syria from Iraq as saying that a commando group of Iraqi mujahidin recently attacked a group of Iraqi intelligence men in holy An-Najaf, killing two intelligence officers and wounding four others.

The report adds that the Iraqi regime's mercenaries recently handed the bodies of 50 Iraqi martyrs, including the bodies of three female martyrs, to their families. These Iraqi martyrs died as a result of the barbaric torture they suffered at the hands of the Iraqi intelligence men.

NIOC RADIO REPORTS ON DISCONTENT IN IRAQ

GF211241 Abadan NIOC Radio in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] Citing an informed source in Kermanshah, the Central News Bureau reports that the situation in Iraqi cities is very unstable. A wave of mass discontent is on the rise.

The report adds that the Iraqi Ba'thist authorities arrested 50 people following demonstrations by university students in As-Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk. They also arrested and executed a number of Iraqi soldiers and officers who expressed opposition to the war of aggression against Iran.

Shortages in fuel, food and water and power cuts have given rise to a wave of indignation and discontent among workers in Baghdad. A number of workers have refused report to work.

IRAQI COUNCIL MEMBERS BANNED FROM LEAVING IRAQ

JN220945 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI publishes a statement on its front page issued by the Muslim masses movement in Iraq on commando operations carried out by Iraqi Mujahidin against key members and concentrations of the Iraqi regime. The statement says that the ruling Baghdad regime has issued a decision banning members of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the government as well as senior officials of the Intelligence and Security Departments from leaving the country.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 342-344

342: Unity Causes Victory

LD191818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1645 GMT 19 Dec 80

[Communique 342 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. On the battlefronts in the struggle between the brave Iranian warriors and the army of the infidels the unity and will of the national keeps manifesting itself each day: A nation consisting of the army, the crops of the revolution guards, the clergy, the students and pupils as well as workers and farmers and Arabs and Persians, Fars and Lor, Kurdish people as well as Baluchis, all united to give their lives for Islam, all armed with divine faith, kills and denigrates the enemies of Islam. It is as if history has made a 14-century turn. Now a report on the warfronts situation on 18 and 19 December to inform our Muslim and combative Iranian nation:

1. The ground forces artillery opened fire on (Al-Bohar) and ('Abdohid) on Jownush front and inflicted considerable losses on the infidel enemy.

2. A raid by four air force fighters on the enemy positions in Umm Qasr resulted in considerable damage on Umm Qasr base.

3. Following an artillery attack by the Islamic Republic ground forces in Dasht-e 'Abbas, the aggressive enemy lost one military vehicle, one heavy machinegun and several ammunition boxes. Also, at least four Iraqi mercenaries were wounded.

4. In the course of a confrontation between our forces and the Iraqi aggressors in the Dezful area, 13 Iraqis were captured by the Islamic army.

5. On the Ahvaz front a total of 2 tanks, 1 personnel carrier, 4 military vehicles, 1 loader and 1 enemy bunker were totally destroyed, with 9 infidels being killed and 15 wounded.

6. On the Abadan front, as a result of our forces' fire power, four tanks, three mass bunkers, part of an installation and one enemy munition dump were destroyed on the Abadan-Darkhovin axis, with a large number of Iraqi mercenaries being either killed or wounded. The final figure has not yet been determined.

7. As a result of efforts by Islamic defenders the enemy forces were forced to retreat between 5 to 7 km northwest of Susangerd.

8. On the Susangerd front the gendarmerie patrol blew up four personnel carriers and several enemy bunkers.

9. On the western sector of Karkheh Kur two enemy personnel carriers, one radio, one excavator, one field kitchen, one light machinegun and one ammunition box were destroyed.

10. On the western front 30 enemy columns were forced to retreat after coming under our artillery fire. Meanwhile, fighting in Shur-e Shirin, Kan-e Sakht Heights, Konjancham and Malekshahi continues.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

343: Recent Military Clashes

LD202012 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1645 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Communique 343 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God: The self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with energy derived from God Almighty, continue their battle against the infidels for the sake of justice and, with the help of God Almighty and the support of the entire fighting and Muslim nation of Iran, shall not spare any effort until the final victory and the elimination of Islam's enemies and Saddam's mercenaries. The results of operations by our brothers in the course of the last 2 days are as follows:

1. As a result of artillery fire by the units of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Dezful region, two enemy personnel carriers were damaged and two of Saddam's mercenaries' missile launchers were destroyed. Also, one power generator belonging to the enemy was set ablaze, and five of the enemy were wounded. On another front in the Dezful region, in the course of an engagement between our forces and the forces of the mercenary Iraqi armed forces, a heavy machinegun and a 120-mm mortar belonging to the enemy were destroyed, and some equipment, tool boxes and ammunition were set ablaze.

2. Given the accurate and continuous artillery fire of the combatants of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the mercenary Iraqi Armed Forces in the region of (Al-bahar), (Ad-dubey) and Kut az-Zayn suffered considerable losses and casualties, the extent of which is unknown.

3. On 19 December an enemy tank became the target of the artillery of the combatants of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran on one of Dezful's fronts and was destroyed. Also, several ammunition boxes, mortars and enemy equipment tents were set ablaze as a result of fire by our forces' artillery.

4. At 0100 yesterday, in the course of an accurate and calculated operation lasting some 5 hours, combatants of the army on a western front succeeded in inflicting heavy and deadly blows on the enemy forces. Seventeen enemy tanks were destroyed and a large number of Iraqi deviated forces were killed. Also, 17 deceived personnel of the Iraqi Armed Forces were taken captive by Islam's combatants. During these operations, a large number of Iraqi weapons and ammunition were taken by our forces. Four from our forces reached the honor of martyrdom, and a number were wounded.

5. As a result of artillery fire by the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Darkhovin front, one enemy ammunition truck, a fuel tanker, a command position and several mass trenches were destroyed; as a result of bullets fired by Islam's combatants, a number of Iraqi Armed Forces mercenaries were killed. On 18 December on the Darkhovin front, thanks to the artillery and heavy weapons of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an enemy tank, a vehicle and a large number of the trenches belonging to the Iraqi Armed Forces mercenaries were destroyed and around 50 of the enemy's forces were killed or wounded. The intensity of our forces' fire was such that Saddam's mercenaries were forced to flee from their positions.

On the Abadan front two enemy trucks were set on fire and destroyed. On 18 December on the Susangerd front, in the course of a joint and successful operation, the valiant gendarmerie forces and the people's mobilization forces made an offensive into the heart of enemy territory and destroyed a personnel carrier, mortar emplacement and several enemy trenches and their occupants and returned safely to their bases.

At 0600 on 18 December in the course of an intensive 4-hour engagement between the brave combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saddam at-Takriti's mercenaries in the Dezful region, two enemy tanks, two vehicles, several ammunition boxes and two heavy machineguns were destroyed. Around 11 of Saddam's mercenaries were killed or wounded in these operations. Also, damages were inflicted on a number of enemy tanks and personnel carriers.

During the last 24 hours, clashes on the Abadan fronts, including Bahmanshir, Mared and Darkhovin have been continuing with the exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire. The infidel mercenaries, by launching ground-to-ground missiles on the residential quarters of southern [words indistinct] have shown once again their dirty and inhuman face.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

344: Casualty Reports

LD211816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1637 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Communique No 344 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Muslim and combative nation of Iran, with the succor of God Almighty and enjoying the power of faith, continues its battle against the forces of blasphemy. Part of yesterday's activities of the self-sacrificing forces of Islam and the homeland, according to what has been reported so far, is as follows:

A. On the western fronts:

1. In the region of the Bazideraz Heights, as a result of artillery and mortar fire of the self-sacrificing combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 100 personnel of the Iraqi mercenary forces were killed and 2 NCO's and 2 privates were captured by our valiant forces.

2. In the region of Gilan-e Gharb, the artillery fire of our forces killed three personnel of the forces of blasphemy.

3. In the region of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, one enemy bulldozer was set on fire and two of Saddam's mercenaries arrested by our forces.

B. On the southern fronts:

1. On the Darkhovin front, thanks to the artillery fire of our combatants on enemy positions, several trenches, 2 mobile kitchens and 4 vehicles of the enemy were destroyed, and about 40 enemy personnel were either killed or wounded.

2. On the Abadan and Mared front, in an attack by our units, several enemy trenches were destroyed and several of Saddam at-Tikriti's mercenaries were either killed or wounded. We have no accurate report about the number of enemy losses.

3. On the Susangerd front, the combative gendarmes and heroic forces of the popular mobilization front destroyed one enemy bulldozer and killed or wounded about 20 peronnel of the forces of blasphemy.

4. Fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked one enemy base and one oil-pumping station in the southeast of Iraq the military garrison of Panjwin and the oil terminal and jetty of Khor Al-Amaya, and inflicted some losses on the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

SITUATION, BATTLES ON SOUTHERN FRONT DETAILED

Shelling of Ahvaz, Dezful

LD201814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1643 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] Following last night's artillery shelling of the residential quarters of Ahvaz by the enemies of Islam, which lasted for 45 minutes, this afternoon, too, Ahvaz was under attack from 1405 until 1500 by heavy artillery fire, and from 1630 until 1640 by mortar lauchers. According to a Central News Bureau report, during last night's artillery attack on Ahvaz, four persons were martyred and several were injured. At 1500 yesterday the city of Dezful, too, was the target of the enemy's long-range artillery, as a result of which several homes in various locations were destroyed, one person was martyred and seven were injured. The injured were transferred to hospitals.

In the [words indistinct] from an artillery battle between the Islamic combatants and the infidel's force is continuing with less intensity, and the city is calm.

PARS quoting Ahvaz's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps headquarters, reports that yesterday, as a result of the guards' mortar fire, one enemy tank was completely destroyed and a number of Iraqi mercenaries were killed.

20 Dec Battle Successes

LD210440 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] Late last night, in contact with one of the officials in the Ahvaz operations room, a PARS correspondent learned that the brave combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Karkheh Kur, Ab Teymur, (?Faj Siyah) and Allaho Akbar fronts, were able to destroy 21 tanks, 1 gun carriage, 3 personnel carriers, a large number of vehicles, 2 bunkers and a number of heavy machineguns belonging to the enemy, and capture 3 enemy RPG-7's.

The same official added: During the clashes on the said fronts, about 100 of those deceived by Saddam's infidel regime were killed or wounded.

According to another report by a PARS correspondent from Ahvaz, a group of Islamic guerrillas--who had gone to the edge of Karkheh Kur to identify enemy positions--were able to advance to within (?a few meters) of the enemy. Upon seeing this group, the Iraqi mercenaries attacked with heavy weapons and pursued them in three armored personnel carriers. During this hit-and-run operation, the combatants of Islam killed three of Saddam's decieved mercenaries. During this clash, three brave men who had ran out of ammunition were martyred; the remaining four were able to return to their bases safely.

A correspondent of the Central News Bureau, who had gone to Susangerd yesterday, reported, quoting one of the officials of the Susangerd guards corps: that city had been under enemy artillery fire since yesterday morning; as a result, a number of houses had been damaged. Fortunately, no one was killed or injured.

The Central News Bureau correspondent added: During a guerrilla night-assault by the revolution guards and the personnel of the mobilization of the oppressed, at 0300 yesterday, on the Susangerd front, in addition to inflicting losses and damages on the enemy, a number of single bunkers were also captured. All the brothers returned to their base after this most successful operation.

Warning on Rumormongers

GF201535 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Communique No 32 issued by Ahvaz Security Headquarters on 20 December]

[Text] Combatant zealous citizens of Ahvaz: Be warned that the enemy fifth column has not for a moment ceased its production of rumors and has increased its pitiful activity following the heightening of your struggle and that of the armed forces of Islam. A group of uninformed people aid the enemy in spreading premade rumors, acting as his loudspeakers. We again request the noble Ahvazi citizens to report these rumormongers to the nearest forces of order as soon as possible.

In view of the fact that Ahvaz residential areas have been shelled by the enemy's long-range artillery for some time, it is imperative that the dear citizens avoid gathering at places where the aggressive enemy's shells have fallen. Citizens should inform this headquarters or the nearest police station or resistance center of any shelling so that the necessary work can be done.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON FIGHTING IN WESTERN REGION

'Triumphal Battles'

LD191730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1642 GMT 19 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS report from Kermanshah, the Qasr-e Shirin and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts last night and today were the scene of triumphal battles by the defenders of the Islamic revolution against the infidel force.

The personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic and the Airborne Division, accompanied by the self-sacrificing Islamic revolution guards, today inflicted heavy and crushing blows on the enemy's positions at the above fronts.

According to a PARS correspondent's report, confirmed by informed military officials, in the course of today's battle, which constituted a followup to last night's operation, the enemy lost 17 tanks with all their occupants. Islam's combatants created a fresh epic at the Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin fronts and took 17 of the enemy's force captive. According to the same report the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic revolution guards, in the course of their valiant battles last night and today during which they enjoyed artillery support, leveled enemy positions and trenches and killed some 150 personnel of the enemy's forces.

According to another PARS report from the western front, on other fronts such as Qasr-e Shirin, Konjancham dam heights, [word indistinct] and Malekshahi in the Provinces of Kermanshah and Ilam, combatants of the Islamic Republic continued with their offensive against the infidel force. Battles in these fronts continued with heavy exchange of artillery fire.

Fighting in Shush

LD191752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Shush, the city of unknown martyrs, was once again the scene of legend-making by the guards and devotees of Hoseyn's school.

According to a PARS report, at 0630 yesterday, a number of guards brothers in the course of a commando operation were surrounded by the invader enemy force, resulting in an intensive engagement between the defenders of Islam and the infidel's force. With the help of another group from the army and the revolution guards, our combatants succeeded in breaking through the enemy's ring and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and following [words indistinct] of the enemy's trenches our forces, the invader force itself was encircled by Islamic force. In addition to the 100 dead, 15 of the enemy's force were taken captive by the valiant Islamic force and a large amount of enemy weapons and semi-heavy equipment was taken as the spoils of war. In the course of this engagement four guard brothers, whose names are Mohammad 'Ali Halat, from Najafabad, Asghar Haji-Zadeh, Mohsen [words indistinct] Dureh-Gard and Sahelhi, a clergyman from Qom, were martyred and four more of our brothers were wounded.

Clashes Continue

LD201746 TehranDomestic Service in Persian 1638 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] PARS reported this morning that during the battles last night and today on the Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin fronts, one of the enemy's personnel assembly centers was completely destroyed, and considerable casualties were inflicted on the infidel's force. Combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran continued their heroic battle against the enemy during the day.

According to the same report, Saddam at-Tikriti's mercenaries, in the wake of their defeat yesterday in the course of which 17 of them were taken captive by our forces, today brought residential areas of Zahab under their missile and artillery attacks and martyred seven members of a family.

Another PARS report from the Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar and [words indistinct] fronts in the Province of Kermanshah indicates that during the last 24 hours, an exchange involving artillery, mortar launchers and heavy weapons was in progress. Combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran have continued to maintain their fire superiority on these three fronts against enemy positions and armored installations.

According to a PARS correspondent, our valiant brothers on the Sumar front, in addition to exchanging artillery fire, conducted some commando operations, the outcome of which has not yet been reported.

On the Zeleh Zard front, commando operations were intensified in the course of the last few days, and Islam's combatants inflicted some damages and losses on the enemy's positions. On the Zeleh Zard front, one of the revolution guard brothers, in the course of defusing a mine, was martyred.

On the Gilan-e Gharb front, the military situation is generally good and the Islam combatants' morale is excellent.

According to a PARS correspondent, one soldier and one warrant officer of Saddam's mercenary forces were taken captive in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.

KURDISH RADIO REPORTS HEAVY CLASHES IN MAHABAD

JN201902 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Surani Kurdish 1230 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] Dear listeners: In yesterday's newscast, we announced that clashes had taken place between the antipeoples army, the agent revolution guards and the so-called mojahedin on the one hand, and the peshmerga and the people of Miandow Ab on the other. During these clashes the enemy suffered heavy losses. According to the latest information on the recent clashes in Mahabad, on Wednesday, 17 December 1980, the antipeoples army and the guards stationed in Miandow Ab under their notorious criminal leader Bab 'Ali, who had been a bandit during the shah's regime and is now a revolutionary guard, advanced on the unarmed villages around Miandow Ab in order to commit crimes like those they had committed in (Anderqash). The forces of the so-called Islamic regime moved against the villages in order to continue their killing of women and children and to loot and burn houses. But this time the enemy forces were thwarted by the peshmerga and the peasants, who stood and fought at the side of the Kurdish Democratic Party in order to preserve the honor, dignity and property of the people and to defend the defenseless.

The Voice of Iranian Kordestan correspondent in Mahabad reports that the army and the guards moved against the villages of Hajji Hassan, Tazeh Kand, Talab, (Bu Mansur), (Ways Sagha), (Qazalin) and Mardan [word indistinct], all in the vicinity of Miandow Ab. The army and the guards were armed with tanks, helicopters and heavy weapons. The peshmerga of the second branch of the frontline forces confronted the enemy and were aided by the peasants, who offered them everything they owned. The peasants, including women and children, went with the peshmerga to the defense of the villages against the army and the guards, who sought to loot and burn as they did in (Anderqash). The fighting continued for 12 hours, during which the peshmerga killed 118 soldiers and revolution guards and wounded 63 others.

Filthy corpses of 32 of the enemy remained on the battlefield because the enemy could not remove them. Among the bodies was that of the notorious Bab 'Ali, leader of the Miandow Ab guards.

The peshmerga captured 26 rifles [word indistinct] and automatic rifles, destroyed 2 armed vehicles and captured another armed vehicle. The villagers also captured 15 rifles [word indistinct]. Because villages offered the peshmerga water and bread, they were shelled with mortars, which killed five of them in addition to a number of livestock.

During this heroic battle in which 118 enemy were killed and 63 wounded, the peshmerga suffered only 6 martyrs. They are: Karim Salih, Mohammad Haydari, and muhyiddin from the Mahabad people. [Words indistinct] Azizi and 'Abd ar-Rahim Ghafuri from the vicinity of Mahabad city.

They have joined other peshmerga martyrs. [passage indistinct]

Execustion of Kurds

JN211504 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Surani Kurdish 1230 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran radio reported yesterday that death sentences had been carried out against brother Mohammad Sa'id Kalkal, a Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] official who had been arrested by the revolution guards, and 14 others described by the radio as KDP peshmerga. However, it is well known that the Tehran regime executes only defenseless people, In any event, we declare that if the Tehran report is true, we will carry out the death sentences which have been passed on those revolution guards held prisoner in the KDP prison.

NVOI 19 DEC COMMENTARIES ON DOMESTIC ISSUES

TA191953 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 19 December carried two commentaries.

The first, entitled "Intensification of the Activities of the Extreme Left and Right," stated: As we have said, the Islamic Republic and the gains of the Iranian nation's revolution are being harmed by the dissension, discord and plots of the counterrevolution and by the overt provocations of elements associated with the compromising liberal bourgeois. In the course of recent events not only were the leaders of the revolution insulted by a group of malicious counterrevolutionaries, but also the extreme left and the extreme right have raised their head and have intensified their activities. The recent events have shown that the extreme leftist and rightist forces have not sat idle. In Khorasan, Esfahan, Qom, Tehran and especially in Gilan these forces carried out their activities on a large scale which in turn has aroused the concern of all the true revolutionary forces.

The situation which currently has arisen in our country not only requires unity of word and action of all the true revolutionary forces, but at the same time calls for realism and for avoiding any kind of fanaticism and monopoly seeking. One cannot struggle against the compromising liberal bourgeois and at the same time attack the true revolutionary forces of the left every day under some pretext. Actually, part of the prevailing difficulties in our homeland stem from the fact that certain high-ranking officials and authorities cannot bear to hear the views of others, and in other words are in love with their own statements and beliefs. This vital issue should be considered through a broader perspective and through the revolution's viewpoint and interests, thus blocking the way for both the subversive activities of the extreme left and right and of the counterrevolution. Otherwise, this caravan will not reach its destination.

The second commentary, entitled "The Revolution Should Not Be Joked With," said: The opponents of the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line and the desirers of the return of U.S. imperialism to Iran and establishment of a constitutional system without a shah, carried out such filthy and provocative acts in Esfahan that the Friday imam of Esfahan left the town as a sign of protest. As the Friday imam has said, the U.S. fifth column within the country has mobilized all its forces and is engaged in various plots and provocations, all of which originate from one source: the CIA and the Pentagon. These days the representatives of the liberal bourgeois have revealed their features more than expected. Seeing the interests of their great master under blows, they have become impatient and have raised the banner of revolt against the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line.

This time the liberal bourgeois have raised the slogan of defending the Constitution, which in fact is nothing more than a trick and a ruse. The liberal bourgeois of Iran, because of their class interests, can never be the true supporters and backers of the Constitution. The slogan of defending the Constitution is a lever in the hands of the liberal bourgeois, the exploiting classes and elements of the former regime in the struggle against the popular and anti-imperialist line of the imam and the aims of the revolution. From the first days of the revolution's victory until now the compromising liberal bourgeois have in fact stood and acted against the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line, and it should be said that during this period they have also dealt heavy blows to the revolution and its gains. With the revelation of the top secret documents of the White House, we see that all the actions of these gentlemen at all levels and on all occasions were exactly according to the instructions of Carter and Brzezinski and the experts of the CIA and the Pentagon. "What is most unfortunate is that the gathering of these desirers of the return of U.S. imperialism to Iran--these so-called defenders of the Constitution--is under the aegis of Mr Bani-Sadr, our homeland's president." If we do not show revolutionary decisiveness in crushing the U.S. fifth column, including the compromising liberal bourgeois, we will create numerous problems and calamities for the system of the Islamic Republic and the Iranian people. The revolution should not be joked with.